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Hamilton county Emergency services



EMERGENCY RESPONDER

volume 4, issue 3

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From the Director:

August 31, 2005, I was notified by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) that there was a possibility Hamilton County would be receiving hundreds of evacuees from the gulf coast area as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

September 1, 2005, Mayor Ramsey conducted a meeting, and as a result, established a task force to create a plan for receiving, triaging, screening, transporting, providing showers, new clothing, food and a place to sleep (shelter) for the evacuees. We were uncertain as to how many evacuees we would be receiving. So, our initial plans included receiving four to five hundred people.



Former Vice-President, Al Gore, speaks to Director Allen and Amy Maxwell about Katrina Evacuees accommodations.



EMS prepares for Katrina Evacuees arrival.

Working with TEMA, Hamilton County Emergency Management, Hamilton County E.M.S. and Field Services, Chattanooga Police Department, Chattanooga Fire Department, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue, Hamilton County Health Department, Hamilton County Department of Education, local hospitals, Recreation Departments from both the City and the County, CMAA, CARTA and others, a plan was devised and carried out on Sunday, September 4, 2005.

We received 130 evacuees on a charter jet provided by former Vice-President, Al Gore. Fifteen evacuees were transported by ambulance to local hospitals, while the other 115 were transported to Howard high School for showers, more health screening and new clothing. Eventually, they were transported to the shelter on 40th Street. Some evacuees stayed for days while others stayed at the shelter for weeks.

It was indeed an honor and one of the high points of my 27 year career to be able to work with the people and agencies mentioned above in carrying out this well orchestrated humanitarian plan.

Thank you to one and all who had a part in the endeavor.

Don Allen

Task Force Chairman

EMS News

HCEMS receives National EMS Service Award

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has presented its 2005 EMT-Paramedic Emergency Medical Service of the Year Award to Hamilton County EMS of Chattanooga, Tennessee. This award, which recognizes ambulance services that provide outstanding value to their communities, is sponsored by ZOLL Medical Corp.

Members of the service received their award at the opening ceremonies at the 2005 EMS EXPO and NAEMT Annual Meeting in New Orleans on Aug. 25, and were also recognized at the NAEMT Annual Awards Dinner, which was sponsored by McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, a division of McNeil-PPC Inc., at the conclusion of the NAEMT Annual Meeting.

Hamilton County EMS was established on Feb. 1, 1988 with 17 employees and one ambulance on each side of the Tennessee River. At the end of the first year, the service had expanded to five ambulances and 35 employees, and today, Hamilton County EMS has 14 ambulances and a staff of 120 full- and part-time employees.

In January 2003, Hamilton County EMS began training its employees in emergency management of acute stroke through a program developed by the University of Miami Medical School. Through this program, EMS crews can alert the receiving hospital to have appropriate personnel available to begin treating a stroke victim as soon as he or she arrives.

In February 2004, the service partnered with two local hospitals to take part in a project called Code STEMI. This is an alert that an EMS crew issues when they begin treating a possible ST elevation myocardial infarction (or heart attack) to ensure early treatment. When a crew begins treating such a patient, they notify the receiving hospital so a cardiac catheterization team can be ready to begin treating the patient as soon as he or she arrives at the hospital.

NAEMT celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2005. It is a national association of EMTs and paramedics that represents paid and volunteer EMS workers worldwide. NAEMT's goal is to serve its members through educational programs, information services, membership benefits, effective representation, and recognition of the professionalism and dedication of the men and women who provide pre-hospital medical care.

Each year, NAEMT recognizes excellence in various areas of pre-hospital medical care with the presentation of individual and organizational achievement awards. These awards honor America's EMS providers and organizations that demonstrate exceptional leadership within the profession and outstanding commitment to pre-hospital medical care. For more information, visit the NAEMT Web site at www.naemt.org.



EMS News

Chief Wilkerson awarded Administrator of the Year

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has named Kenneth L. Wilkerson, EMT-P, chief of emergency medical services for Hamilton County EMS in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as its 2005 William Klingensmith EMS Administrator of the Year. This award, which recognizes an EMS administrator who has made a significant contribution to the EMS community, is sponsored by Merginet.com.



Wilkerson received his award at the NAEMT Annual Awards Dinner in New Orleans on Aug. 27. The dinner, which was sponsored by McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, a division of McNeil-PPC Inc., concluded the NAEMT Annual Meeting and EMS EXPO 2005.

Wilkerson has been EMS chief for Hamilton County EMS since August 1988. When he started, his department had 37 employees, five ambulances and a \$1.5 million annual budget. Today, the department has grown to 120 employees, 14 ambulances and an annual \$7 million budget.

“Chief Wilkerson’s attention to requirements for ongoing in-service training for our EMTs and paramedics, constant review of emergency response calls, and continued review and upgrading of standards have contributed to the excellent performance of our Emergency Medical Service,” wrote Hamilton County EMS Director Donald L. Allen, Sr. in his nomination letter. “Chief Wilkerson has established a well-trained, committed management team to oversee the day-to-day operations and performance of our EMS. Patient care is paramount in the responsibilities of these front-line supervisors.”

Wilkerson has served on the Tennessee state EMS board since 2002. He is vice-mayor of Lakesite, Tennessee, and also chairs the city’s safety and security committee. In 2004, he received the EMS Administrator of the Year award from the Tennessee Ambulance Service Association.

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EMS News

HCEMS is recognized by Hamilton County Commission



Tuesday, October 4, 2005, Hamilton County Emergency Services Director Don Allen, Chief Ken Wilkerson, and the Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services staff was presented with awards from the Hamilton County Commission for their outstanding service to Hamilton County.

Director Allen was presented with an award and monogrammed clock for his outstanding service with the Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Director Allen was honored to accept the award from the County Commission.



However, he commented that the award should be given to all the supporting agencies whom took on this huge task for Hamilton County. Allen said, "Everyone put in long hours during the Labor Day weekend. But, we were able to put a huge plan together in 2 days and were successful in placing these Louisiana evacuees in a shelter with food and bedding and some "Chattanooga hospitality."



CONGRATULATIONS TO MARC PUGLISE!

Arthur Bennett
September 24, 2005
6pds. 7oz. 19 inches



Field Services News

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue brings home 4 trophies

On October 1-2, 2005, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue Service attended the 50th Anniversary of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS) in Pigeon Forge, TN. There were 25 to 30 Rescue Squads from across the state that competed in different Rescue Competitions. We won 1st place in Advanced Extrication, 2nd place in Emergency Medical Care, 2nd place in Basic Extrication and 3rd place in High Angle Rope Rescue Challenge. Chief Chuck Hall, Chattanooga Hamilton County Rescue, said, "we brought home 4 trophies from the convention which continues to show that our rescue squad is one of the best in the state of Tennessee and southeast states. I am very proud of our members who continue to provide an excellent service at no cost to the community in the Tri-State area."

BASIC EXTRICATION: 3rd Place (out of 22 teams)

Winners: Asst. Chief Tim Spires, Captain Daniel Walston, Tech. Taurus Moore, Tech. Anissa Whitter and Jeff Ingram.

This event involves a 5-man team with a 20 minute time limit for complete extrication. The tools used are hydraulics for patients whom are pinned or trapped.

ADVANCED EXTRICATION: 1st Place (out of 4 teams)

Winners: Asst. Chief Frank Pate, Captain Steve Freeman, Tech. Nick Carnes, Tech. Lesa Holdridge and Lt. Bradley Ray

This event involves a 5-man team with a 20 minute time limit for complete extrication. A team can pick to use a hand tool of either a hack saw, porta-powered, air-chisel-misc. hand tools. Only 4 teams are selected to this extrication competition. These winners chose to use the hack saw for their extrication.

MEDICAL CHALLENGE: 2nd Place (out of 10 teams)

Winners: Asst. Chief Frank Pate, Asst. Chief Tim Spires, Captain Daniel Walston, Tech. Anissa Whitter, Tech. Lesa Holdridge.

This event involves a 5-man team of Certified BTLs/First Responders. 20 minute time limit. The team determines the signs/symptoms of patient, diagnose, splint, package for transport.

RESCUE CHALLENGE: 3rd Place (out of 12 teams)

Winners: Captain Daniel Watson, Captain Steve Freeman, Tech. Nick Carnes, Tech. Lesa Holdridge, Tech. Marty Shelton.

This event involves ropes, repelling, communication skills, swift water rescue, obstacle course carrying an 180 pound dummy in a stokes stretcher to a location within 20 minutes,



Left to Right: Frank Pate, Daniel Watson, Tim Spires, Anissa Whitter, and Lesa Holdridge.
Photo: Chief Chuck Hall

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue is a volunteer service and has been in-service since 1937. Hamilton County residents continue to support this agency with the generous donations and we thank you. If you should need additional information, please contact me at (423) 595-6947 (cell), 493-5179 (work) or 842-4309 (home).

My email address is: ChuckH@mail.hamiltontn.gov

Thank you,
Chief Chuck Hall
Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue

Training News



Mark your Calendars!

November 11, 2005 8:30 a.m. ACLS Re-certification Class

November 12, 2005 TBA PBTLS Course

*** Class Locations will be announced by Captain Poole.

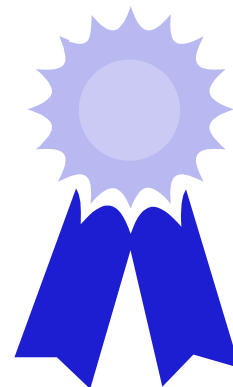
Call of the Month!

AUGUST 2005

Medical: Tony Sylvester & Scott Powell
Trauma: Hoyt Dalton & Michelle Burdette

SEPTEMBER 2005

Medical: Wayne Dedmon & Mike Whalen
Trauma: Roger Davis & Roger McDiffett



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We're on the Web!
www.hamiltontn.gov



EMS has Annual TVA Training at Sheriff's Annex





Safety News



Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children. Using safety tips and common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season and make it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you.



Plan costumes that are bright and reflective.



Consider adding reflective tape to costumes or treat bags.



Purchase costumes that are flame resistant.



Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for children.



Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or potential biting to trick- or- treaters.



Place pumpkin well away from where trick- or- treaters will be walking or standing.



Make sure your yard is clear of "trip hazards" that can be a potential accident for kids.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they will carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!



Do you have any Safety Concerns?

**Emergency Services Safety Committee
would like to hear about your
safety concerns.**

**Contact: Lt. Jerry McDonald, HCEMS
at 209-6932**

Emergency Services Safety Committee

**Lt. Jerry McDonald, Capt. Rip Rohen, Amy Maxwell,
Lt. Billy Burnette, Eric Ethridge, Jay Jones, and
Patrice Schermerhorn.**



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